FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 MAY 1986

Jordan

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's talks with King Husayn on 5-6 May focused on ways to achieve a unified Arab stand and conduct a successful Arab summit, Amman radio disclosed in a report on the Syrian leader's visit to Jordan. The Syrian delegation in Amman also includes the prime minister and foreign minister, the radio said. Jordanian press editorials welcomed the visit and noted its "particular importance" in view of the current Arab situation, the report added. Jordanian sources cited by Kuwait's *AL-QABAS* asserted that military issues are at the heart of the talks, according to KUNA. The paper said Al-Asad would brief the Jordanians on Syrian intelligence reports about a planned Israeli attack on Syria through northern Jordan.

Syria

Despite a recent report that Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam was wounded in an assassination attempt, Damascus radio reported that Khaddam received the visiting Finnish foreign minister 5 May.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi naval units delivered an accurate hit on a "very large maritime target" off the Iranian coast 6 May, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement cited by Voice of the Masses radio. Shipping officials in Manama cited by AFP disclosed that two tankers were set ablaze by Iraqi air attacks in the Khark Island area 6 May. Iraqi planes also raided Khark Island and hit a "large maritime target" off the Iranian coast 5 May, according to a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

In another shipping incident, the Manama *GULF DAILY NEWS* reported 6 May that the biggest floating crane in the Gulf was badly damaged in a recent missile attack while under tow to Al-Shariqah. The paper did not say who was responsible for the attack.

DRA

CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev praised newly-elected PDPA Central Committee General Secretary Najibullah for the "high authority" he enjoys among the party and people, and noted his "personal role" in the consolidation of Soviet-DRA friendship, in a congratulatory message broadcast by Kabul radio.

In reportage on the internal situation, Tehran radio cited information that gunfire was heard from the presidential palace in Kabul 2 days before Babrak Karmal's resignation as party general secretary, while DPA reported that shooting was heard from various parts of Kabul 4 May, according to two Bundestag deputies who visited Kabul that day.

Kabul radio claimed that 30 "counterrevolutionaries" from Gulbuddin Hikmatyar's group were killed and 40 others were captured in recent security operations in Balkh Province.

Meanwhile, BAKHTAR noted the start of a new round of DRA-Pakistani talks in Geneva, and Karachi radio cited a UN official's statement that the talks have reached a "decisive and very sensitive stage."

Libya and the Tokyo Summit

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has thanked the Japanese people for their "large-scale and popular response" to his call for the cancellation of the summit and for the expulsion of "the child-killers, Reagan and Thatcher," Tripoli television reported. In a related commentary, the television claimed that the summit was a "devastating failure" because the participants were forced to "flee like rats" after the Japanese people responded to Col al-Qadhdhafi's incitement by staging mass demonstrations and firing missiles at the conference.

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Najibullah Chairs PDPA Meeting 5 May

LD060554 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] Kabul, 5 May BAKHTAR: A session of the apparatus of the Central Committee of the PDPA was held here today under the chairmanship of Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Comrade Najibullah talked about the proceedings and results of the 18th plenum of the PDPA CC and the tasks of party organisations.

Najibullah Congratulated by Leaders, Organizations

Gorbachev Congratulations

LD051653 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Addressed to Comrade Najibullah, the following congratulation message from Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has arrived on the occasion of Najibullah's election as general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan:

Esteemed Comrade Najibullah: On behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, ! present to you warm and sincere congratulations on your election to the rank of general secretary of the PDPA.

As a firm struggler for the interests of the Afghan people and an active participant in the implementation of the domestic and foreign policy of Afghanistan, you enjoy high authority among the party and the people and are using all your energy in the struggle toward fundamental social and economic changes in your homeland and toward the consolidation of its national sovereignty.

Your personal role in the consolidation of the Soviet-Afghan friendship and the broadening of comprehensive and fruitful cooperation between the USSR and the DRA is clear. I wish you Comrade Najibullah, and to all members of the PDPA, great success in the realization of the aims and tasks of the April Revolution.

[Signed] Mikhail Gorbachev, 5 May 1986

Congratulations From Army, Others

LD052007 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] A staff meeting of the PDPA Central Committee apparatus was held today. At the meeting Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, spoke about the proceedings and results of the 18th plenum of the PDPA Central Committee and the tasks of the party organizations in this regard.

In affirmation of the decisions of the PDPA Central Committee's 18th plenum and the election of Comrade Najibullah as general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, messages from the PDPA provincial party committees, the organs of the DRA Armed Forces and social organs throughout the country are arriving at the PDPA Central Committee.

Messages arriving from the party provincial committees and state organs of Kabul City and Balkh, Paktia, Parwan Qandahar, Farah, Beghlan, Samangan and Nangarhar Provinces, are expressing congratulations for the election of Comrade Najibullah as general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, voicing complete and full support for the decisions of the 18th plenum of the PDPA, and have stated militant solidarity with their beloved party.

On behalf of the generals, commanders, political staff, NCO's and men of the military units and establishments, the leadership of the Ministry of Defense at a grand meeting yesterday expressed support for the decisions of the 18th plenum of the PDPA Central Committee. Major General Nazar Muhammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, DRA minister of defense, on behalf of the staff of the DRA Army, welcomed the decisions of the 18th plenum of the party and the election of Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA. He expressed the complete support of the DRA Army for the decisions of the PDPA Central Committee's 18th plenum.

Congratulation telegrams addressed to Comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, are continuously arriving.

'Intellectual' Refugee Assesses New PDPA Leader

AU051731 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1625 GMT 5 May 86

[Austrian Radio reporter Raimund Loew report on an interview with Ali Muhammad Sakhmar, "one of Afghanistan's leading intellectuals," on the new general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Muhammad Najibullah; place and date not given — recorded]

[Text] Ali Muhammad Sakhmar, a leading member of the Afghan Academy of Sciences and one of the most prominent intellectuals of Afghanistan, who today lives in exile in Vienna, personally knows the new party chief Mohammad Najibullah:

[Begin Sakhmar Recording in English] Well, when I was a lecturer at Kabul University, he was a student of medicine. I knew him personally. [end Sakhmar recording]

He is a callous, dogmatic, Russia-oriented communist, Professor Sakhmar says. He has always been interested in police matters and he eventually became chief of the Khad secret police. In this function he did his duty very well from the point of view of the Soviet occupiers. He killed hundreds and thousands of young people in the prisons. He is responsible for attacks against Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan. Karmal, says Prof Sakhmar, is an outdated figure. He drinks and is too lazy. He was Brezhnev's man. Najibullah, on the other hand, is a sharp instrument of the KGB.

So says Muhammad Sakhmar, an Afghan intellectual who a few months ago fled from Afghanistan to Vienna.

BAKHTAR Reports New Round of Afghan-Pakistani Talks

LD051353 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Geneva, 15 Apr (TASS/BAKHTAR) — Another round of talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan that are conducted through Diego Cordovez, envoy of the UN Secretary general, opened today in the Palace of Nations in Geneva. Shah Mohammad Dost, the DRA Foreign Minister of affairs, is the head of the Afghani delegation and Sahebzada Yaqub is leading the Pakistani delegation.

Government Troops Reportedly Rout Zhawar Rebels

LD031958 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] As a result of the recent operations by the country's courageous Armed Forces, the nests of the counterrevolutionaries in the Zhawar region, Paktia Province were completely destroyed.

A few days after the military operations, more facts have been revealed about the true role and nature of these nests of the rebels — regarded by the counterrevolutionary bands and their Western masters as a solid and invincible fortress. Their nests looked like a real fortress. In this area, three defensive lines were built by the most modern engineering methods. In high mountains trenches were carefully built where anti-aircraft guns, surface-to-air missiles, [words indistinct], the most modern British-made missiles, anti-aircraft equipment, [words indistinct] and heavy anti-aircraft machineguns — all of them used to destroy air targets — had been stationed.

Heavy artillery and rocket launcher systems stationed 3 km from the enemy base in the territory of Pakistan were forming the defensive system of Zhawar [words indistinct].

From all these active headquarters the operations of bands in Paktia, Paktika, Kabul, and other eastern and central provinces of Afghanistan were specifically guided. Moreover, the radio station was operating in this region. In all, 49 weapons, ammunition, clothes, and foodstuff depots, as well as the supply base of Lemarkhati, located near Zhawar, from where the bands were supplied, were included in this rebel base.

Moreover, the training center for enhancing the proficiency of the teachers of killing and plunder, an ammunition factory with automatic [words indistinct] manufacturing ammunition for the British .303 rifles and heavy machineguns, and weapons repair workshops, existed in this region.

A workshop for the repair of cars, hospital, pharmacy, and drugstore, a POW prison, a villa for the band chieftains and foreign instructors, and a restaurant and bar for their recreation were also built in this region.

The construction of this complex was not something unexpected; its final purpose was the creation of the so-called Islamic Government of Afghanistan.

The protection of this base and its annexation rested on the professional murderer band — led by Jalal Uddin — a close accomplice of Gulbuddin hikmatyar — the chieftain of the so-called Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan. This evil and criminal objective of the counterrevolutionaries and their overseas supporters did not materialize.

The vigilant units of the country's Armed Forces, despite undesirable and difficult climatical and land conditions and intense firing by the counterrevolutionaries and artillery forces of Pakistan, have prepared the road for the military motor vehicles to proceed quickly. They have stationed their forces near Zhawar and inflicted crushing blows on the enemy.

The Armed Forces displayed heroism and high superiority in this clash. The final stage of the operations were guided by General Abdul Ghafur, first assistant to the chief of staff of the DRA Armed Forces.

The counterrevolutionaries abandoned injured persons, war equipment, weapons and ammunition, and were forced to escape to Pakistan.

They were not assisted by the two reactive launcher units, which, on instructions of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, were rapidly transported to the area. Neither were they helped by the various little group sessions of counterrevolutionaries in Peshawar, in Islamabad, also attended by the U.S. instructors, nor the regular units of the Pakistan Army stationed along the border, nor the 200 Pakistani militias that were rapidly sent for their assistance. Their bodies were then left behind in Zhawar region.

What did the witnesses see, who, after the conclusion of these clashes arrived in the nest of the [words indistinct] counterrevolutionaries? They saw caches of weapons and war equipment, as well as essential materials to be sent to the weapons factory located [words indistinct] in the territory of Pakistan and destroyed vehicles.

In these operations, 252 independent enemy fortifications were destroyed; 6000 anti-tank mines and 12,000 anti-personnel mines were neutralized; hundreds of rockets and rocket launchers; thousands of reactive artillery shells and millions of tank and machinegun shells were seized.

Enemy losses reached more then 3,000 killed and about 4,000 injured. Almost all the ringleaders of the rebels of this region have been crushed. Among the dead are Mawlawi Arsalah Khan, Jalaluddin's deputy; Khan Mohammad, head of the security services; Yar Mohammad, head of the training center; and three advisers who are suspected to be subjects of the Western European countries. Their names will be determined later.

Jalaluddin personally has received several injuries and his beard has been eliminated as a result of fire. Jalaluddin's personal boydguards managed to save him from death at the last moment

of the fighting. Abrahim, Jalaluddin's brother and (?Bakhta Jan) head of the Army depot have been injured.

The citizens of Khowst warmly welcomed the soldiers who crushed the nest of counterrevolutionary elements. In the meeting that was held on the successful return of heroic soldiers and officers, it was mentioned that the desturction of Zhawra's nest was an unforgettable lesson for all those who have in mind the return of Afghanistan to backward [words indistinct] and by the counterrevolutionary bands that want to stop the democratic transformation process in the DRA.

The Kabul citizens warmly welcomed those soldiers who took part in the (?red) operations on the eve of celebrating the ! April Revolution festival.

Najibullah, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, expressed satisfaction with the increasing power of the DRA Armed Forces during a speech to Kabul citizens. He praised their readiness to deal a crushing blow to all the aggressors, and emphasized the unity of Army and people who are on the same side for the defense of the national and democratic revolution of 1 April.

Counterrevolutionary Gang 'Crushed' in Balkh Province
LD051814 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] As a result of successful operations carried out recently in the village of (Oflandara), Sholgara District, Balkh Province, 30 counterrevolutionary elements belonging to the Gulbuddin gang were crushed, together with their group leader Sofi Abdorrahim. Forty of them including one of the ringleaders of the murderer band of Jamiat (Kamja) were captured. Our forces seized ammunition and assorted weapons, rocket launchers, heavy machineguns and Chinese and Egyptian Kalashinkovs from them.

Rebel Missile Attack Kills 2 in Qandahar 2 May
LD051625 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] By launching surface-to-surface missiles on the afternoon of 12 Sowr [2 May] in Qandahar, as a result of which a woman and child were martyred and the grounds of the Kharg-e Mobarak-e Hazrat-e Rasoul [shrine of the cloak of the Prophet Muhammad] were [words indistinct] destroyed, the savage counterrevolutionaries once again showed their hostility to our country's Muslims and their sacred Islam religion.

A BIA correspondent reports from Qandahar that the people there have seriously condemned this savage action by the rebels and cursed the perpetrators of this crime and their reactionary and imperialist masters headed by U.S. criminal imperialism, by whose instructions the servants are committing crime, terror and murder in our country.

Further Reportage on Violence in Punjab

More Deaths Reported; Local Curfew

BK051625 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] In Punjab a known terrorist, Sukhdev Singh Faqira, wanted by police in a large number of cases, is believed to have been killed by some unidentified jeep-borne armed men in Satibhind area of Amritsar this afternoon. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, efforts are being made to establish his identity beyond doubt. Faqira carried an award of 100,000 rupees for his arrest or information leading to his arrest. The state government was on the lookout for him for quite some time.

At different markets in Tarn Taran this afternoon, four persons were killed and two injured when three groups of suspected terrorists fired indiscriminately. Soon after the incidents, some unruly people started pelting stones at the hospital where the injured had been admitted. As a precautionary measure the local authorities have clamped an indefinite curfew there. The number of preventive arrests made since last Wednesday has risen to about 450.

Bhagat Denies Pakistan Charge of Aiding Bhutto

BK051621 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] India today categorically denied President Ziaul Haq's allegation that it is financing the political activities of the Pakistan People's Party leader, Miss Benazir Bhutto. The external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, told the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of his ministry in New Delhi that it is astonishing a head of state should make such an allegation merely on the basis of assumptions. It is particularly regrettable that General Zia should make the charge even while repeatedly saying that he is keen to improve relations with India.

Members of the committee expressed concern at the continuing involvement of Pakistan in terrorist activities in Punjab. They said that General Zia's allegation is a deliberate attempt to externalize his own internal difficulties and divert attention from Islamabad's involvement in anti-Indian activities in Punjab. They said the general's attempt to link India with Libya was a ploy to please the United States.

Referring to Sri Lanka, Mr Bhagat said Colombo has put forward some formulations to the Indian delegation led by Mr Chidambaram on the question of devolution of power in matters like law and order and land settlement. These formulations have to be carefully examined to see they can meet the aspirations of the Tamil people.

Gandhi To Visit 4 African States 14-19 May

BK051252 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, is paying a 6-day visit to four African countries next week. He will be visiting Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, and Tanzania from the 14th to the 19th of this month at the invitation of the governments of these countries.

Protest to DRA Envoy on 'Unprovoked Attacks'

BK051549 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad this afternoon and a strong protest was lodged with him on unprovoked attacks on the Pakistani territories on the 3d of this month and on the 29th of last month.

The Armed Forces of Afghanistan on the 29th of last month fired 27 rounds from tanks on the Frontier Corps' Lakka Tigga post in which one Pakistani was killled. The Afghan Armed Forces fired 34 shells at Nawa Pass region the same day. However, no report of any death or injury or any damage to property has been recieved. The Afghan forces on the 3d of this month fired 18 rounds of artillery shells at Nawa Pass area. No loss of life or property has been reported. Later in the same day, they fired two artillery shells at Ali Mangal area in which two Pakistanis were injured and a house damaged.

Italian Official Commends Bilateral Cooperation

BK050620 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Bruno Corti has said that his country highly values Pakistan's foreign policy, especially its stand on Afghanistan and its efforts to normalize relations with India. Talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport before leaving for Karachi today, he said Pakistan is playing a major role in promoting peace and stability in the region. The Italian deputy foreign minister said that the Italian Government and people highly appreciate the notable political developments in Pakistan, particularly relating to the establishment of democratic institutions.

Referring to the two countries' economic relations, he said that these ties have rapidly expanded in the last few years and Italy has become an important member of the consortium of countries providing aid to Pakistan. Bruno Corti said that he had detailed talks with Pakistani leaders on enhanced economic cooperation and further talks in this regard will be held at the next Pakistan-Italy joint economic commission meeting in Rome in October this year. The joint commission has promoted cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

In reply to a question, he said that his country is considering extending assistance to Pakistan in preserving food and agricultural products through nuclear technology.

The Italian deputy foreign minister and with his 5-member delegation called on Sind governor Lieutenant General, Retired, Jahan bad Khan, in Karachi today.

UN Official on U.S., Soviet Support for Afghan Talks

BK060242 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, has said the United States and the Soviet Union have expressed support for a negotiated settlement of the Afghanistan problem. He was talking to newsmen in Geneva where the seventh round of the UN-sponsored indirect talks to find a solution to the Afghanistan problem has begun. He said direct talks can be held if the issue of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan is resolved. He said he will hold talks with Pakistan and Kabul administration delegations led by their foreign ministers for about 2 weeks, but the duration of the talks will be extended if it is deemed necessary.

Karachi Says Rebels Foil Offensive in Badakhshan

BK060327 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 May 86

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin have reportedly foiled a major offensive of the Soviet-Karmal forces in Badakhshan Province of Afghanistan. The mujahidin killed 13 Soviet-Karmal soldiers and captured 21 others during the operation. The mujahidin also attacked the subdivisional headquarters of (Kenchan) and killed seven Soviet-Karmal soldiers.

NEPAL

Politician Arrested; Criticized Panchayat System

BK051525 Hong Kong AFP in English 1509 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Katmandu, May 5 (AFP) — A Nepalese politician was arrested here Monday for publicly criticising the country's partyless Panchayat system, informed sources said here. Birendra Bhakta Shrestha, a leading representative of a multi-Party anti-Panchayat group, had allegedly questioned the legality of the 25-year-old Panchayat system and said that its economic policies had made the people poorer. He was held for questioning for several hours and was then released, the sources said.

Meanwhile, former prime minister Surya Bahadur Thapa Monday accused Nepal's local administrations of blatant interference in a forthcoming general election and said it would make a farce of the May 12 polls. In a statement released here, Mr. Thapa said that local officials were openly interfering in a bid to ensure victory for official candidates in defiance of the declared desire of King Birendra for free, fair and peaceful elections. He particularly accused officials in his own home constituency of harassment of voters.

Mr. Thapa conducted the first general elections to be held in Nepal's 25-year-old partyless Panchayat system in 1981, and is campaigning for re-election in his home constituency, Dhankuta District. He lost the prime ministership to Lokendra Bahadur Chand in 1983 after a vote of no confidence in the national Panchayat.

'Terrorists' Arriving From India Arrested

BK051446 Katmandu External Service in English 1415 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] According to a spokesman of the Home Ministry, the police have arrested some terrorists with explosives in their possession who entered into the country from India. Police alertness to maintaining law and order in the country has succeeded in foiling the designs of these terrorists. The terrorists, under arrest, have testified that they had been sent by the terrorist (? Ram Radha Prasad) gang. It may be recalled that the same gang was involved in the bomb explosions in different parts of the country on 20 June 1985. The explosive devices in police custody are also of the same [word indistinct]. Legal action is being taken in special courts against the perpetrators of the crime committed on 20 June 1985. Those arrested recently are also under investigation.

Khamene'i Urges IRGC To Be Above Politics

LD041843 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Sunday that the Islamic Republic needs permanent God-fearing forces to preserve the Islamic revolution against the enemy. The Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) should be this force, he added.

In a meeting with officials in charge of the politico-ideological training of the IRGC personnel, Khamene'i urged them to take all necessary precautions to ensure that the IRGC does not deviate morally nor politically from its role as the vanguard of the revolution, otherwise, he said, the ensuing rot will undermine the territorial integity of the country and above all Islam.

The president furthermore advised the IRGC's mentors to make certain that the quality of the guards' education was consistent with the pure and revolutionary goals of the Islamic revolution, and that under no circumstances should they slacken in their task of constantly upgrading their conciousness-raising instructions to IRGC personnel.

The IRGC personnel, Khamene'i said, should remain aloof from political parties and constant vigilance should be exercised against infiltration of deviant ideologies and enemy agents, the president noted.

Leaders Speak at War Information Seminar 5 May

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on War Progress

LD051245 Tehran IRNA in English 1120 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA — Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed here Monday that the real intention of the Baghdad regime in imposing the war on Iran should be exposed to the world. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was speaking to a group of officials, including head of the War Information Headquarters Dr. Kamal Kharrazi and a number of governors general currently attending here a seminar of provincial committees of the War Information Headquarters.

He said that the war was imposed by Iraq upon the agreement of both the East and the West to crush the Islamic Revolution of Iran. The Majlis speaker noted that except for a handful number of people the Iraqi Ba'th party had not been known by others, adding that the War Information Headquarters should take measures to reveal the nature of the Baghdad regime.

Stressing that the Islamic Republic of Iran was engaged in a defensive war, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that Iran should advance ahead until the survival of the revolution is guaranteed. He rejected ceasefire iwth Iraq and said that the Iraqi regime and its supporters which now in a position of weakness would take advantage of the truce to reinforce the Iraqi forces and prepare for a new attack against Iran.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is also Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defence council referred to a letter from an Iranian dentist in the U.S. who had expressed willingness to come to Iran to go to the fronts following the dispatch of a number of other dentists to the battle fields. He said that such an action indicated the suitable impact of the braveries of the Islamic forces of Iran upon the world public opinion.

On the suppression of a recent Iraqi attack in Fakkeh region in southern front, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the Iraqi troops taking advantage of a vast plain and support of hundreds of tanks, launched an attack in the area which was crushed leaving thousands of casualties for the Iraqis. He called on the War Information Headquarters to encourage artists in various fields to show to the world braveries of the Muslim forces of Iran.

Musavi Emphasizes Economic Strength

LD031110 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 3 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 3, IRNA — Prime minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Saturday that despite all vicious propaganda during the past seven years on Iran's alleged economic bankruptcy, the country was able to run wheels of its economy without receiving any loan from outside. All these economic hardships and bottlenecks would further strengthen the Islamic Republic of Iran in reaching self-sufficiency.

The prime minister was speaking at the inaugural session of a three-day nationwide seminar of the officials of war information committees, also attended by head of the War Information Headquarters Dr. Kamal Kharrazi. The prime minister stressed that the Iraqi-imposed war was the prime issue of the Islamic Republic of Iran and, therefore, all propaganda activities should be directed to this point.

Reiterating that hardships of the post-revolution era have made the Islamic republic of Iran stronger, Prime Minister Musavi assured that the country was also ready to confront the problem of decline in the price of oil during the current year. Meanwhile, Dr. Kharrazi referred to the role people played in the continuation of the war and said that the seminar will discuss various dimensions of the war to achieve a suitable coordination.

Musavi: Domestic Production Can Lessen Dependence

LD042122 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Sunday that in order to develop the industry, Iran should encourage domestic mass production, although it may be sometimes of low quality. Otherwise, he said, the country could not cut its dependence on foreign nations. He said "when we produce plain good with our own means, it will be in the interests of the country that Iranian people prefer that domestically-made good to a foreign luxury one."

The prime minister made the statements in the Sunday session of the cabinet during which a report on plans of the Ministry of Heavy Industries was given. It is necessary that Iran relies on its own workers and experts to maintain its independence, Musavi said, and Iranian people should avoid consuming imported commodities. Musavi said: "We should rely on domestic capital investments, work and production and regulate our consumption

with our production capacity."

Economy Reducing Dependence on Oil Revenue

LD051356 Tehran IRNA in English 1300 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA — Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani said here Monday that the Islamic Republic of Iran could gradually cut its dependence on oil revenue with better knowledge of its taxation capacity. He was speaking in the opening day of a three-day seminar on taxation, attended by a number of taxation officials and professors from universities and theological schools. On the objectives of the seminar, Iravani said it was held to review issue of taxes so as to provide a correct taxation program for the country. Tax incomes should provide 80 to 90 percent of the country's current expenses while oil revenue must be spent on development plans, he said.

The economic and financial minister said that Iran's tax revenue last year, ending 21 March, had a 14-percent increase in comparison with the previous year but provided only 39 percent of the country's annual budget. In 1976, tax incomes provided only 20 percent of the country's budget, an indication of the former regime's dependence on oil revenue and its negligence towards the role of taxes, Iravani said. He said the government's oil income was 44 percent of its total revenue last year. He expressed hope that the government's dependence on oil revenue would decrease as much as possible.

$900 Million Development Allocation Announced

LD021634 Tehran IRNA in English 1535 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] Arak, Central Prov., May 2 IRNA — The Majlis (parliament) has allocated an extra dlrs. 900 million of foreign exchange to ministries and executive bodies for the current Iranian year (started March 1986) according to Minister of Industries Gholamreza Shafe'i here Thursday. Shafe'i said apart from their current foreign exchange budget, the ministries can use this extra money to implement ongoing development projects.

Referring to oil price conspiracy led by the U.S., the minister said that reduced foreign currency revenues would accelerate the country's goal to achieve economic independence and that Iranian manpower cannot help but become more imaginatively industrious in their endeavor to do so. The minister said: "We should increase our innovative capability with greater exploitation of our strategic reserves and in the machine industries sector." He added that the country's reduced foreign currency earnings was a blessing disguised to pursue policies more compatible with the basic needs of the country. Machinery and heavy industries should expand in order to serve the military industries whose role it is to fight against the big powers and support the oppressed nations, said the minister.

The minister arrived here Thursday for a one-day visit. He inspected several production units in the city.

Amendments to Presidential Duties Discussed

LD041530 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 4 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA — The Majlis, in its open session presided over by Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sunday morning, continued its deliberations on defining the scope of responsibilities and authority of the president.

The first pre-agenda speaker Mohammad Nabavi from Bushehr, said that lackey reactionary regimes of the region by supporting the Iraqi regime have been committed crime against Muslim Iraqi people. Furthermore, he added, the indifference of these lackey regimes towards the Palestinian cause and Zionist aggression in Lebanon encouraged the U.S. to attack Libya.

The next speaker, Ibrahim Esrafilian of Tehran, castigated claims of Western circles on the alleged violation of human rights in Iran. He said that those so-called human rights advocators should explain their silence towards massacre of coloured people in Britain only on charges of being black.

The Majlis then approved a number of articles of the draft amendment on president's responsibilities.

Commentary on Power Shift in Afghanistan Reported

Report on Editorial

GF051517 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1200 GMT 5 May 86

[From the press review]

[Text] According to the news agencies, it was announced in Moscow yesterday that Babrak Karmal, the head of the Afghanistan ruling regime supported by the Soviet Union, has resigned from his post. The newspaper *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI*, in its editorial today entitled "The Reshuffle of Pawns in Kabul — a Sign of the Soviet Defeat in Afghanistan" discussed Babrak Karmal's resignation, which we invite you to hear in this segment of the program:

The newspaper *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* writes: Finally, after a month of arcane consultations, political explanations, and propagandistic moves, it transpired yesterday that Moscow has removed Babrak Karmal and has appointed another pawn in his place. This was announced by the official Soviet news agency citing Afghanistan's BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY. In fact, quoting BAKHTAR as a source is nothing more than a propagandistic cover-up; the actual source of the news is TASS. This is because the Kabul rulers are appointed by Moscow and take orders from Moscow; the news of their removal or appointments is also announced by Moscow. In another words, from the Soviet point of view Afghanistan is nothing more than its subsidiary.

Early this year, Babrak Karmal, who was selected by Moscow in 1979 as the president of Afghanistan, suddenly disappeared from the public eye. It was announced that he was in Moscow for medical treatment. He was not even seen at the Marxist coup d'etat anniversary ceremonies last week in Kabul. Radio Kabul was forced to resort to falsehood to counteract rumors circulating

about his dismissal and announced that he is still the president of Afghanistan. A week had not yet elapsed following the dissemination of the Kabul government radio before Moscow announced that Karmal had been removed from his post.

It is not very surprising that Radio Kabul should allege that he is still president of Afghanistan, even just a few days before the official announcement of his dismissal, because all decisions about the present rulers of Afghanistan are made in Moscow. Those who control Radio Kabul are ignorant about what goes on behind the closed doors of the Kremlin. Whenever instructions from Moscow reach Kabul they are implemented by the Kabul rulers to the letter and are announced by the government-controlled Radio Kabul. In the news concerning the dismissal of Babrak Karmal, it was stated that he resigned from his post. In the Kremlin's political vocabulary, the term 'resignation' is not unusual for the removal of pawns. It is for this reason that most of the people familiar with the political problems of today's world know full well that for the Moscow echelons, the meaning of Karmal's resignation is that he no longer has the necessary power or usefulness to safeguard the Kremlin's interests in Afghanistan and should make way for another who has the abiiity for such an assignment.

The replacement of Karmal by Mohammad Najibullah, the former chief of Afghan's espionage organization KHAD and the announcement of his selection by the news agency TASS is something else which will be linked with concomitant events in Afghanistan in the future. In recent years, Moscow has shown a hasty inclination to impose the KGB's pawns on the Kremlin and to hand over the reins of government to them. At present, this tendency is evident in the Soviet policy concerning the rulers of Afghanistan. The galvanized activity of the directors of the Geneva conference with the simultaneous removal of Karmal for a compromise between the East and the West on the Afghan issue, is a point linked to Moscow's latest decision. The picture is not very clear whether Karmal has shown his own effete behavior by accepting such a compromise and has angered his Kremlin mentors or if Moscow feels at this stage that Karmal is too weak to implement the compromise according to the wishes of the Soviet Union.

In any case, two factors emerge clearly. Frist, Moscow,by its latest step, has once again instilled fear into the Marxists ruling in Afghanistan and has made it clear to them that they can only hope to remain on the seat of government in a hopeful and complacent manner if they prove to be useful and loyal pawns for Moscow. The other factor is that Moscow's decision is an indication of a fundamental instability in the Soviet policy in Afghanistan and that they have reached an impasse in that country. Hence, the people of Afghanistan will continue their holy crusade against the Soviet usurpists and their puppets until the complete deracination of the domination of the aggressors and the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan in a more determined manner.

Tehran Radio Reaction

LD051542 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1104 GMT 5 May 86

["Moscow and a New Experience in Afghanistan" — station commentary]

[Excerpts] A week after the return of Babrak Karmal from Moscow to Kabul, news came that he had been dismissed as secretary general of the ruling comminist party and General Najibullah had replaced him. The reason for the dismissal, as claimed by the party central committee, that Karmal has been inflicted with a respiratory illness, or possibly leukemia — an illness that took him to Moscow on an unexpected and surprising trip. Apparently, the seriousness of his condition did not allow him to take part in the parade on the seventhanniversary of the April Revolution in Kabul last week.

Karmal's absence gave credence to the numerous rumors in political circles that he was no longer desirable to Kremlin officials. In fact, the source of these rumors was the tangible change over the past few months in Moscow's stance toward the Afghan Government and, in particular, toward the Geneva talks. During that time, reports received indicated that Karmal's trip to Moscow to attend the 27th CPSU Congress did not receive a great deal of attention from Kremlin media and officials. Apparently, Gorbachev did not receive Karmal, either.

At the same time, while Karmal was in Moscow, *PRAVDA*, the official organ of the Soviet Communist Party, began to criticize the course of action and the so-called democratization of affairs by the Afghan Government. It wrote that some of these actions have been carried out without considering the existing religious-tribal factors in Afghanistan. On the surface, the criticism was directed at Karmal as the head of government and the official responsible for implementing plans. He is held responsible for the lack of success in crushing the Muslim revolutionaries and the failure to establish strict order. But, in fact, as believed by some observers, the *PRAVDA* article was a sign of Moscow's wishes to reevaluate the Afghan issue after 7 years of tiresome war. After all, Karmal had an involved, day-to-day relationship with Moscow. Naturally, many of the plans and projects that *PRAVDA* now holds Karmal's government responsible for not implementing or incorrectly implementing, had previously been approved by Soviet experts and theoreticians. Therefore, the ground was prepared for some changes. It is clear that to that aim, the reshuffling of some pawns and the sacrificing of others are considered signs of the changes.

It was during this process that Najibullah — who is now occupying the post of secretary general of the Afghan Communist Party — was appointed head of the country's security organization, KHAD, after holding various posts in the party hierarchy. Najibollah, who is Pashtun and a medical doctor, played a special role in attracting some of the tribal chiefs toward the central government. He accomplished this during his term as head of KHAD in order to understand the various tribes in Afghanistan. He was relatively successful in the plan to create a rift among the tribes, especially separating them from the Muslim revolutionaries.

Under present conditions, while the Geneva talks on solving the

crisis in Afghanistan are reaching a sensitive stage, as stated by Cordovez, the UN representative, we must wait to see what decision the new party head will make to implement the unsuccessful policies of the past and to break the present deadlock, which has encumbered the Soviet and Afghan Governments. Taking into consideration the relentless resistance of the Muslim revolutionaries, continuing the policies of the past has so far yielded nothing for the Kremlin and its ally government in Afghanistan but compounded problems. The most obvious proof of this claim is the relatively high number of changes and reshuffles that every so often bring down an administration and replace it with another in Afghanistan.

SAIRI Conference Issues Communique 5 May

LD051809 Tehran IRNA in English 1605 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Al-Faw, May 5, IRNA — The second general assembly of the sixth term of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), held at SAIRI's headquarters in the liberated Iraqi oil-port city of Al-Faw, concluded its work here Monday, with the releasing of a resolution. The resolution reiterated that it was the legitimate right of the Islamic Republic of Iran to liberate the Al-Faw peninsula in order to punish the aggressor party (Iraqi regime), it also called on all Muslim Iraqi forces to deal severe blows to the Ba'thist regime of Saddam Husayn. The Supreme Assembly also called on its liberation forces increase their presence at the warfronts so that they along with Iranian Muslim combatants could free the Islamic country of Iraq from Ba'thist rule.

Iranian Muslim combatants liberated Iraq's Al-Faw peninsula in the "Val-Fajr-8" offensive launched on February 9. Also voiced in the resolution was support for the righteous struggle of Muslim Palestinian, Afghan, Egyptian and Lebanese nations. The recent U.S. attack on Libya was also denounced.

Sends Support Message to Khomeyni

GF050651 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] A message sent by the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] to the office of the Imam of 'Ummah and the commander in chief of the armed forces announced their complete readiness to continue the struggle until the downfall of the ruling Iraqi regime as ordered by Imam Khomeyni. According to a central news report from Ahvaz, part of this message, which was sent from a city in Khuzestan where SAIRI held its second general assembly in the sixth round, emphasized the armed struggle against the tyrant Iraqi regime. It also said: At the same time as the victories of the Islamic army in the Al-Faw region in which with the assistance of God we will find our way to sacred eternity in Iraq, SAIRI held its second conference of the sixth round named Labbayk ya-Imam in liberated lands. They again renewed their promise with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the commander in chief of the armed forces, that they will defend the Islamic government with the last drop of their blood and will carry out the order of God: "Obey God, obey the prophet and those in authority." They will free the Iraqi land from the idolatrous and will take revenge for the blood of martyrs and thousands of Iraqi prisoners from the tyrant Iraqi regime. This message also emphasized that SAIRI will carry out vast operations in the armed holy war and general mobilization.

According to the same report, yesterday at the second SAIRI assembly the activities of the various units of the administration committee regarding military, propaganda, and service activities were discussed and reviewed. During this session the importance of the armed holy war, establishing and equipping resistance bases, and the mobilization of Iraqi military forces against the Zionist Baghdad regime were emphasized as part of the future policies of SAIRI.

CIA Study of Islamic Movements Reported by Tehran

LD021303 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 May 86

[Text] The U.S. espionage organization, CIA, by employing research workers on Islamic problems in various world universities, is about to embark on research and studies with regard to Islamic movements throughout the world.

The magazine *MIDDLE EAST* in an article in its latest issue wrote: Robert M. Gates, deputy to William Casey, considered to be No. 2 in the CIA, has been entrusted with the responsibility of carrying out the CIA's new plan. The author of the article added: The 42 year old Robert Gates is the selfsame person who, during the inception of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, was a member of the U.S. National Security Council and at that time he exposed the CIA's weakness in forecasting Iranian events and the organization's inefficiency in studying the nature of the Islamic Revolution.

According to *MIDDLE EAST* the plan put forward by Gates is already being studied by the U.S. National Security Council. It is said that at present a number of Islamic research workers in certain universities have been employed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA. In this connection *MIDDLE EAST* refers to Dr Naddaf Safran, professor of Islamic Studies at Harvard University, who recently carried out new research on problems connected with Islamic movements for the benefit of the CIA.

Tehran Reports Change in Iraqi Army Command

LD031228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 May 86

[Excerpt] Following the repeated defeats of the Iraqi 7th Army Corps [as heard] in the "Val-Fajr 8" operational theater and the inability of the corps commanders in confronting the Islamic forces, on Saddam's orders the corps's command has eventually been entrusted to Major General [as heard] Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid. IRNA reports that Major General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid is the fifth officer to be appointed to command that disintegrated corps in less than 75 days.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,461

LD051637 Tehran IRNA in English 1552 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA — Iranian Naval Forces inspected nine ships and oil tankers sailing under foreign flags around the Hormuz Strait Sunday but allowed them to continue their voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying goods for the Iraqi regime, according to a military communique here Monday.

The Joint Staff Communique Number 2461 released Monday says that Iranian Gendarmerie Forces opened fire on Iraqi positions in Zobeydat and Bayat killing 10 Iraqi soldiers and demolishing several positions. Artillery duels and skirmishes between Iranian Muslim combtants and Iraqi troops continued sporadically in the southern fronts especially in Sharhani, says the communique.

In Hoseyniyeh, artillery fire of Muslim forces of Iran hit Iraqi tank units silencing their fire and halting their operations, says the communique. In Yabis and Nahr 'Anbar operational regions, the communique says, Iranian Muslim forces checked movements of Iraqi armoured units and engineering operations of enemy troops, they also carried out successful patrol missions in these fronts.

Iranian Muslim combatants continued their defensive operations and responded to Iraqi artillery fire in the northwestern and western fronts setting fire to parts of enemy positions in each front and killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers, according to the military communique. Elsewhere the communique says, artillery fire of Islamic forces of Iran checked movements of enemy armoured units and disrupted their engineering operations in Panjwin. It also prevented Iraqi forces from bringing reinforcement in Sar Dasht.

Meanwhile, Iraqi long range artillery fire on Abadan in Khuzestan province damaged 18 houses and shops as well as one mosque in the city. Iranian artillery and helicopter fire of army aviation services pounded Iraqi armoured units in Fakkeh Sunday destroying four tanks and inflicting heavy. [incomplete sentence as received]

Six Iraqi Tanks Destroyed

LD051939 Tehran IRNA in English 1806 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA — Coordinated fire of the Iranian combatants Monday subjected on an Iraqi tank battalion in Fakkeh operational region and set fire to six enemy tanks, according to Khatem ol-Anbiya' joint army-IRGC headquarters. [sentence as received] A good amount of enemy hardware was also destroyed and a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded during the operation, the headquarters said.

DRA Blast Kills 12; Shots in Presidential Palace

LD051753 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that 12 DRA party and state leaders were killed and 80 wounded by a bomb blast planted by Muslim Afghan revolutionaries on the parade grounds where the 7 April coup d'etat anniversary celebrations were held, in Mazar-e Sharif Province.

Also, according to a report from the bureau of the Muslim Afghan revolutionaries in New Delhi, since Babrak Karmal's return to Afghanistan, the occupying forces have been fully in charge of maintaining the security of Kabul with their own patrol units. Reports received from inside Afghanistan also indicate that 2 days before Babrak Karmal's so-called resignation, gunfire was heard from the presidential palace. The following day, Kabul airport was closed for 2 hours to allow Karmal to go to an unknown destination. But for some unexplained reasons, he failed to leave Kabul.

Reportage on Afghan Rebel Military Operations

Soviet Helicopter Gunship Downed

GF051535 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] Afghan Muslim revolutionaries early this month downed a helicopter gunship of the joint Soviet-DRA forces in Qandahar Province. The Central News Unit in Islamabad has reported that the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries have also attacked joint Soviet-DRA forces positions in (Shah Jadi) in Zabol Province with rockets and light and medium weapons killing a number of these forces, capturing 12 Afghan Government soldiers, and taking 18 Kalashnikov rifles as booty.

Joint Soviet-Afghan Centers Hit

GF051632 Tehran International Service in Russian 1515 GMT 5 May 86

[Text] During recent coordinated operations, the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries attacked 20 grouping centers of the joint occupation forces and forces of the regime ruling in Afghanistan.

According to a Central News Unit report, an office of KHAD —the intelligence organization of the Kabul regime —the party office in the (Chakhat) region, a television station, and the region's joint forces office were destroyed. A total of 45 troops were killed, and 15 were wounded.

The reports also stated that during these operations, the Afghan Muslim revolutionaries managed to capture 8 centers, 40 weapons, and a machine gun belonging to the joint occupation forces and forces of the regime of Karmal. Eight troops were captured.